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imagery analysis report

Local-Force Garrison Divisions
Shenyang MR, China (S)



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Local-Force Garrison Divisions Shenyang MR, China (S)

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



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












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UNIT SIZE

	UNIT
	COMPANY
	BATTALION
	REGIMENT
	DIVISION
	ARMY LEVEL

UNIT TYPE

	HEADQUARTERS		INFANTRY
	REAR SERVICE		GARRISON
	TRAINING		ANTITANK
	ENGINEERING		ARTILLERY
	MAINTENANCE		MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHER
	ANTIAIRCRAFT ARTILLERY		ARMOR
	MOTOR TRANSPORT		

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LOCAL-FORCE GARRISON DIVISIONS SHENYANG MR, CHINA (S)

INTRODUCTION

1. (S/WN) This report presents an analysis of the local-force garrison divisions within the Shenyang Military Region (MR), China (Figure 1). A correlation of imagery and signal intelligence (sigint) was used to confirm the existence, number, and general location of these ground force divisions. The unit structure of the garrison divisions was derived solely through the analysis of imagery. All applicable satellite imagery acquired through [] was used in the preparation of this report. No attempt has been made to analyze and compare these garrison divisions to those in other MRs.

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2. [] The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) is divided into two major categories—main-force and local-force. The main-force comprises armies which contain the major combat elements of the PLA. Units subordinate to the main-force armies are identifiable on imagery and usually follow a standard table of organization and equipment (TO&E). In addition, main-force units are assigned a national numerical designator and are organized according to the "rule of three" from the headquarters down to the regimental level.¹

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3. (S/WN) The PLA local-force comprises internal defense divisions, border defense divisions, and garrison divisions.** The garrison divisions are by far the most significant of these forces since they are more akin to main-force units. However, the heavily equipped garrison divisions, in contrast to main-force units, do not have a standard TO&E,** are not a part of the national numerical designator system,† and do not follow the "rule of three." However, because of installation size and configuration, in addition to equipment holdings, it is possible to determine the organizational structure of the garrison divisions in the Shenyang MR from imagery. The organizational structures of the internal and border defense divisions, however, are not discernible on imagery. Internal defense divisions are a militia-type force and are more like police units. Border defense divisions maintain outposts and small units along the MR's borders with North Korea, the USSR, and Mongolia.

4. [] Each garrison division in the Shenyang MR is organized for a specific combat role. This is in contrast to the local forces of other MRs whose combat role is not distinctly identifiable. The primary mission of these forces may be support. A mobilization could indicate their specific role.³

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5. (S/WN) The lack of a standard TO&E in the garrison divisions in the Shenyang MR is probably caused by the tailoring of each garrison division for a specific mission. Main-force divisions are usually formed into regiments with a single function such as infantry, artillery, or antiaircraft artillery (AAA). Although different types of main-force units occasionally collocate, this does not usually occur below the regimental level. The opposite is the case with the garrison divisions in the Shenyang MR. Few garrison divisions are composed of homogeneous units; most comprise units which differ in types of equipment and/or function (Figure 2). The usual combination is infantry and artillery units, usually antitank artillery (Figure 3). Occasionally, infantry has been combined with AAA and/or mortar units, and in rare instances field artillery units have been combined with AAA units (Figure 4). Armor units have not been combined with other types of units.

6. (S/WN) All garrison division headquarters, but probably not all the regimental headquarters, have been identified on imagery. Garrison division regiments are often housed in more than one installation, whereas main-force regiments are usually housed in a single facility. The subordination of units which are geographically separated between two regimental headquarters is difficult to determine. For the purposes of this report, when regimental elements are located at two headquarters—but cannot be subordinated—the headquarters and its possible subordinate units are listed individually.

*(TSU) A Chinese main-force army has a headquarters and three sequentially numbered infantry divisions. Each division has three sequentially numbered infantry regiments that are sequentially numbered among all three divisions as well. Three artillery regiments, one assigned to each infantry division, also have sequentially numbered designators. For example, the 64th Army contains the 190th, the 191st, and the 192nd Infantry Divisions. The 190th Division contains the 568th, 569th, and 570th Infantry Regiments; the 191st Division contains the 571st, 572nd, and 573rd Infantry Regiments; and the 192nd Division contains the 574th, 575th, and 576th Infantry Regiments. The 470th Artillery Regiment is assigned to the 190th Division, the 471st Regiment to the 191st Division, and the 472nd Regiment to the 192nd Division.²

** (TSU) The precise nomenclature for various types of units is not certain because sigint recoveries contain a wide range of designators for similar types of units.

*** (S/WN) Echelon identifications have been based on main-force TO&E.

† (TSU) For example, while there is only one 1st Infantry Division in China, there could be a 1st garrison division in each MR.²

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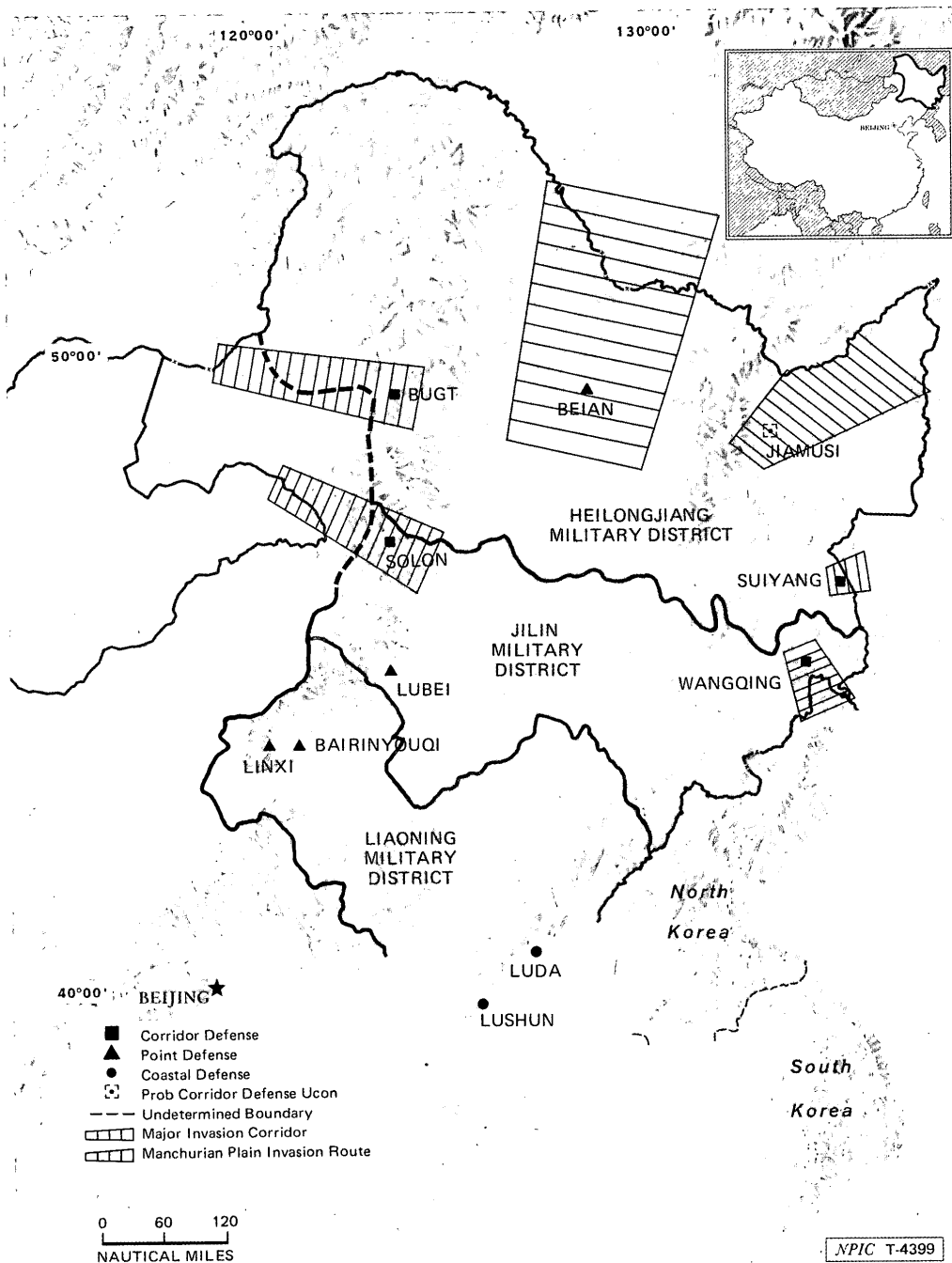


FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF LOCAL-FORCE GARRISON DIVISIONS IN THE SHENYANG MR, CHINA

7. (S/WN) A special terminology was required for this report to ensure differentiation between the units and echelons of the garrison divisions and their main-force counterparts. If a regiment within one of the garrison divisions has a single function—for example, artillery—it is termed a garrison artillery regiment. If a regiment has a dual function—for example, infantry and artillery—or if its function cannot be determined, it is termed a garrison regiment. Echelons at battalion level or below are referred to by their generic name: for example, infantry battalion and AAA battalion. However, echelons at battalion level and below whose function is mixed or unknown are termed, for example, garrison battalion and garrison company. In addition, elements whose echelon cannot be determined are termed unit and may be referred to, for example, as either garrison infantry unit (known function) or garrison unit (unknown or mixed function). Two units of a known echelon that are collocated but do not form the next higher echelon are also termed a unit. For example, collocated howitzer and field gun (FG) battalions are called an artillery unit since these two units do not form a complete artillery regiment. When such a unit is identified, the subelements are listed in the remarks section of the appropriate table.

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DISCUSSION

8. [] The garrison forces in the Shenyang MR comprise eight garrison divisions and a two-division garrison command (Figure 1).⁴ These forces ring the border of the MR and are primarily located to defend against an invasion from the USSR or Mongolia. Because of their composition and location, these forces can be categorized as:

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- corridor defense units* which defend major passes (usually containing rail lines) leading into the MR from the USSR and Mongolia,
- point defense/reinforcement units* which appear to be positioned to defend specific strategic points or to reinforce other areas, and
- coastal defense units* which are positioned on the Liaodong Peninsula between Luda and the North Korean border to defend against a sea invasion.

Corridor defense is provided by divisions located at Bugt, Solon, Suiyang, and Wangqing. Point defense/reinforcement is provided by divisions located at Beian, Lubei, Linxi, and Bairinyouqi. Coastal defense is provided by the Luda Garrison Command which comprises two divisions. Offshore island artillery batteries also provide coastal defense, but these will not be described in this report.

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[] Although the MD headquarters [] have not been identified on imagery. Three garrison divisions (Bugt, Beian, and Suiyang) are subordinate to the northern Heilongjiang MD, three (Solon, Lubei, and Wangqing) to the central Jilin MD, and two (Linxi and Bairinyouqi) to the southern Liaoning MD. []

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10. [] The eight garrison divisions and the Luda Garrison Command are probably independent units. However, there is some evidence that at least several of these divisions may be subordinate to main-force armies. []

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[] However, not all of the garrison divisions within the Shenyang MR can be assigned to an army because there are ten garrison divisions and only six armies. Determining which, if any, of the garrison divisions would be assigned to an army would be difficult. Except for the Wangqing Garrison Division, the organization of a garrison division does not appear compatible with a main-force army.

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11. (S/WN) Two significant trends have developed within the garrison divisions since the 1979 Sino/Vietnamese conflict. These are an overall improvement of the equipment inventory of the various garrison divisions and the ongoing construction program at garrison division installations.

12. (S/WN) Equipment was upgraded in the newly identified armor and engineering units. The strength of the armored units was increased, and armor was introduced into three garrison areas (Bugt, Linxi, and Lubei; Figure 5). Armor will probably be introduced into additional garrison divisions, especially those that provide corridor or point defense.

13. (S/WN) Engineering units have been confirmed on imagery with two garrison divisions (Solon and Linxi). Although most of the engineering equipment has generally been for construction, the division engineering unit at Solon has received multiple rocket launchers (MRLs), probably for use in mine laying (Figure 6). Because all divisions require a construction and mine-laying capability, this type of equipment will probably be introduced into other divisions.

14. Evidence of the second trend, that of increased construction, has been seen throughout the MR within all three categories of divisions. Most of the extensive construction appears to be for units in the point defense/reinforcement category. However, one area of new construction, probably for garrison units, is at Jiamusi (Figure 7)—at the head of a major corridor in the northeastern portion of the MR.⁶ When this construction is complete, garrison forces will occupy all major corridor areas. Additionally, construction of three defensive areas has been observed approximately 60 nautical miles (nm) west of the Lubei Garrison Division and 100 nm south of the Sino/Soviet border. Two of these areas consist of facilities large enough to house three regiment-sized garrison units. All three areas have extensive trenches and various obstacles, including tank traps (Figure 8). However, an association between these

areas and the nearby garrison divisions at Lubei, Linxi, Bairinyouqi, and Solon cannot be determined from available imagery.

15. (S/WN) For the purposes of continuity, the local-force garrison divisions are discussed according to the three categories outlined in the Introduction. The corridor defense units are presented first, followed by the point defense/reinforcement units and the coastal defense units.

16. (S/WN) The following section of the report discusses the roles and significant trends or changes observed in each division. It also discusses areas where unit or installation identification is difficult or not possible. Not all installations within a division will be discussed, but all are shown on the tables and maps.

BASIC DESCRIPTION

Corridor Defense Units

17. (S/WN) The primary invasion route into the Shenyang MR is over the Manchurian Plain. This area is defended by one garrison division and a main-force army deployed across the plain. In addition to the plain, other major access routes or corridors into the MR are in mountain passes and river valleys containing road and rail networks (Figure 1). A small force in these corridors could possibly stop, or at least delay, a much larger

force. Four of the five major corridor routes into the MR are defended. Additionally, extensive construction, which appears to be for another corridor defense unit, is underway at Jiamusi (Figure 7).

18. (S/WN) The presence of garrison divisions in these major passes limits the options of invading forces. The passes and river valleys are difficult to transit under normal conditions. If the bridges and tunnels were destroyed, the invading forces would be forced to use the classic course

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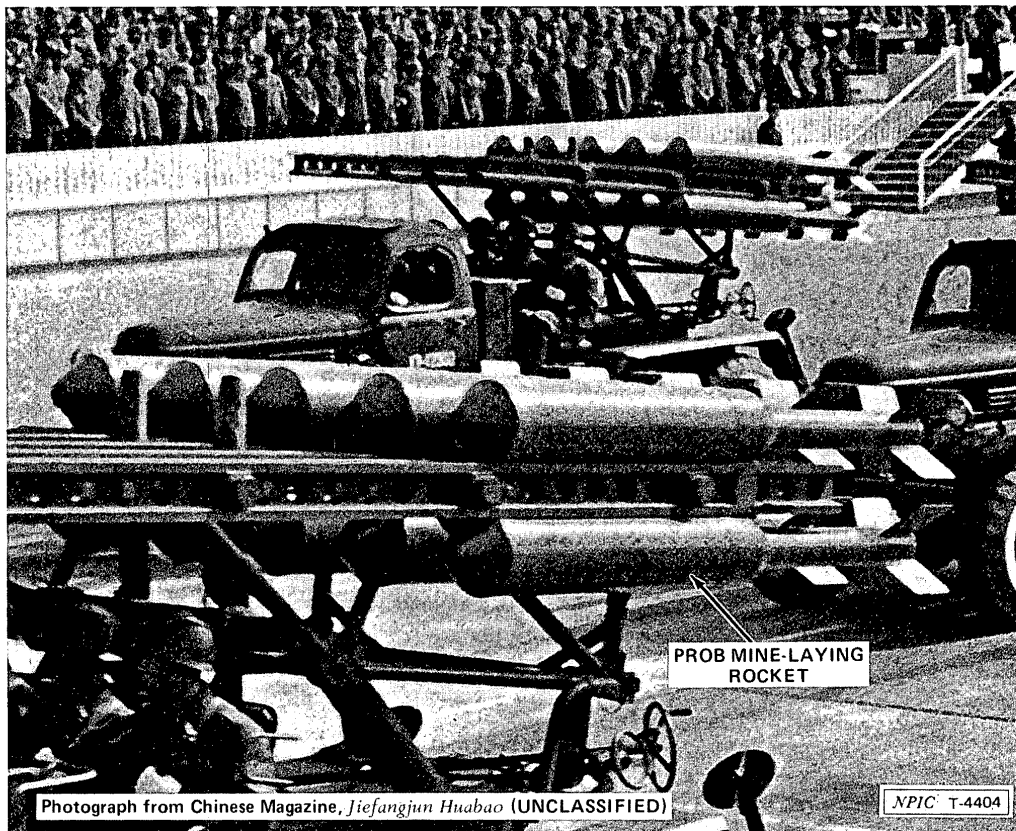


FIGURE 6. BM-13 MRL WITH PROBABLE MINE-LAYING ROCKETS

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down the Manchurian Plain, where they could be countered by both main- and local-force units.

Bugt Garrison Division

19. (S/WN) The Bugt Garrison Division is in and around the Bugt area in northwestern Shenyang MR (Figure 1). The units of this division are deployed in at least ten installations (Figure 9) to defend the mountain passes along the rail line from Manzhouli on the Soviet border to Qiqihar on the Manchurian Plain.

20. (S/WN) This division consists of a headquarters, a rear service unit, a training area, an AAA unit, two infantry units, two garrison regiments, one garrison regiment headquarters unit, one garrison unit, five artillery units, an MRL battalion, and an assault gun regiment.

21. (S/WN) Assault guns were first observed in the Bugt Garrison Division during the Sino/Vietnamese conflict in 1979. This equipment may have been introduced in response to perceived Soviet threats, or it is possible that this was a planned upgrading that occurred during that time. From an initial battalion of armored vehicles, the armor at Bugt was steadily increased to approximately 50 armored vehicles. Analysis of March 1981 imagery reveals that a third battalion of 20 assault guns has been added to the Bugt assault gun regiment.

22. (S/WN) Bugt Army Barracks Northeast AL-4 houses the garrison division headquarters and some of its subordinate units. This facility previously housed the garrison assault gun regiment. When this regiment was upgraded, however, it moved to Bugt Army Barracks Northwest

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AL-6 which had previously housed a garrison regiment comprising infantry and AAA units. The vacated armor facilities at AL-4 were subsequently occupied by AAA which was transferred from AL-6. The current location of the infantry that had been housed at AL-6 has not been determined.

23. (S/WN) Bugt Headquarters Garrison Division and Barracks AL-2 houses a garrison regiment containing antitank (AT) artillery, mortar, and infantry units. The construction that approximately doubled the size of the facility has apparently been completed. No change in unit structure or function has been observed as a result of the expansion.

24. (S/WN) The training facility for units of the Bugt Garrison Division is at Bugt Army Barracks and Training Area AL-1. Periodically, equipment and tents in bivouac have been observed, but no extensive training exercises have been seen.

Solon Garrison Division

25. (S/WN) The Solon Garrison Division is the largest garrison division in the MR, in terms of both equipment and number of installations. The division is housed in at least 17 installations dispersed over a wide geographic area (Figure 10).

These facilities are in mountain passes along the major rail line from Mongolia into the MR (Figure 1).

26. (S/WN) This division consists of a probable division headquarters, a possible garrison division headquarters detachment, a rear service unit, an engineering unit, an AAA battalion, a possible motor transport (MT) unit, three regimental headquarters, three infantry battalions, six garrison units, six artillery units, an MRL battalion, and a tank/assault gun (T/AG) regiment. This division is one of the two where an engineering unit has been identified.

27. (TSU) The exact location of the Solon Garrison Division headquarters has not been determined. Two locations are possible.

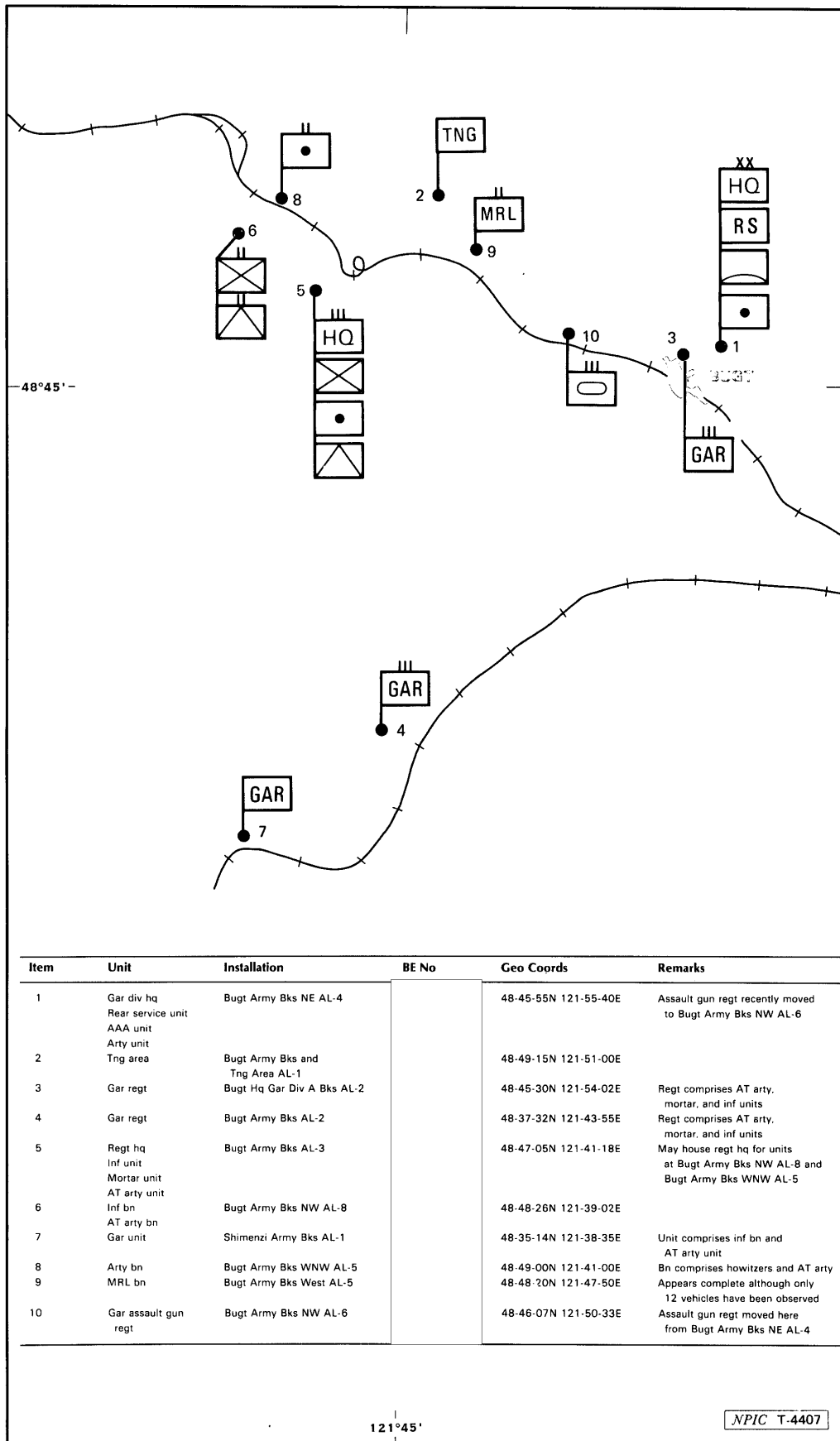
This installation could probably house the division headquarters since it has a multistory headquarters-type building and the other features usually associated with a headquarters. In addition, it has an AAA battalion, an engineering unit, and a possible MT unit. However, this installation is approximately 50 nm from the main division area and a headquarters located at Horqinyouyiqianqi would be isolated from the majority of its subordinate

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FIGURE 9. INSTALLATIONS IN THE BUGT GARRISON DIVISION

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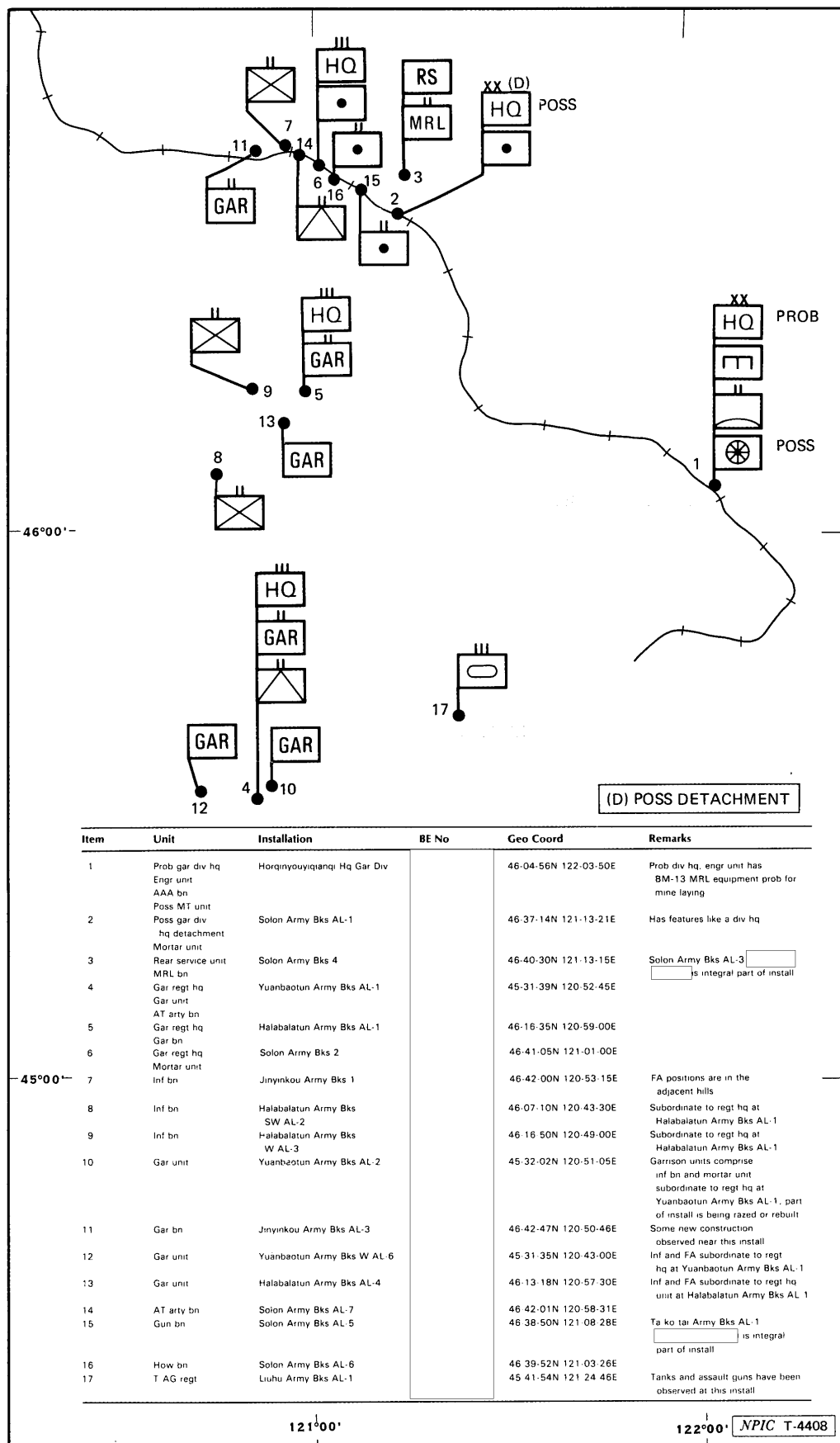


FIGURE 10. INSTALLATIONS IN THE SOLON GARRISON DIVISION

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units. The Chinese usually locate subordinate regiments closer to the division headquarters.

28. (S/WN) The other installation with features like those of a division headquarters is at Solon Army Barracks AL-1 (Figure 12). This facility has an elaborate administration complex with an auditorium, additional support facilities, and a mortar unit. The unit housed at this installation may be a detachment from the division headquarters at Horqinyouyiqianqi, serving in the division deployment area, or it may be the headquarters unit of a different echelon of garrison forces.

Suiyang Garrison Division

29. (S/WN) The Suiyang Garrison Division is in a valley along the major rail line from the Ussuriysk area of the USSR (Figure 1). At least ten installations are associated with the units of this division (Figure 13).

30. (S/WN) This division has a headquarters, one garrison regiment, two infantry units, five garrison units, and one AT artillery battalion.

31. (S/WN) The division headquarters is at Suiyang Headquarters Garrison Division and Barracks AL-12. Although this installation is small, it has adequate facilities to support a division headquarters. Additionally, equipment from subordinate units has occasionally been observed. The only identifiable regiment in this division is housed at Suiyang Army Barracks AL-2. This garrison regiment contains infantry, AAA, and AT artillery units.

32. (S/WN) This division has historically been AA oriented and many of the installations in the Suiyang area have had AAA. However, redeployment of the infantry, AAA, and artillery units within the division area, coupled with reduced equipment sightings, makes a determination of the exact composition and role of this division difficult.

Wangqing Garrison Division

33. (S/WN) The Wangqing Garrison Division is deployed along the rail lines in the mountainous area where the borders of China, the USSR, and North Korea converge (Figure 1). The division is housed in at least eight installations (Figure 14). Installations which house an infantry division of a main-force army are also located in this general vicinity. The Wangqing Garrison Division is infantry oriented. It appears to be the only garrison division in the Shenyang MR that is organizationally compatible with a main-force army and would be most likely to be associated with the main-force as a fourth division.

34. (S/WN) The Wangqing Garrison Division has a headquarters, a possible training area, four garrison infantry regiments (one housed in two installations), and a garrison artillery regiment.

35. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This installation is located along a river valley and consists of four small areas.

Point Defense/Reinforcement Units

37. (S/WN) Point defense/reinforcement units appear to have a dual function. They defend broad areas of the MR and are also in a position to reinforce other forces. All but one of the garrison divisions in this category are on the southwestern edge of the Manchurian Plain. The other division is at Beian and is probably intended to delay invading forces and then to fall back and join with main-force units. These combined forces might, depending upon the strength of the opposing forces, continue to fall back and be joined by additional main-force units farther to the south. The primary role of the remaining point defense/reinforcement units in the Shenyang MR is to defend against invading forces from Mongolia. A secondary role would be to outflank enemy forces on the Manchurian Plain. However, this role would be limited because these Chinese units are equipped primarily with wheeled vehicles and lack the terrain mobility of any potential opposing Soviet armored forces.

Beian Garrison Division

38. (S/WN) The Beian Garrison Division is at the northern end of the Shenyang MR in the middle of the Manchurian Plain (Figure 1). The division has at least six installations (Figure 15) and would be the first major force to contact any Soviet forces invading over the plain. The division could delay invading forces either from positions around Beian itself or from defensive positions in the Sunwu area farther north. The Beian Garrison Division would then fall back and join the nearby main-force army deployed between Qiqihar and Harbin.

39. (S/WN) This division has a headquarters, two AAA battalions, three artillery units, and an MRL battalion. The facilities and units in the Beian division are sparse, dispersed, and resemble those of a militia. Unlike main-force or other local-force units, the primary function of the Beian division appears to be agricultural while its military role seems to be secondary. Extensive construction, which was observed in the Beian area on imagery of [REDACTED] may be for the upgrading of divisional assets or for consolidation of assets into one area, indicating that the primary role of the Beian division may soon be military.

Lubei Garrison Division

40. (S/WN) The Lubei Garrison Division is on the southwestern edge of the Manchurian Plain in Western Jilin Province (Figure 1). It is south of the Solon Garrison Division and northeast of the twin divisions at Linxi and Bairinyouqi. It is housed in at least seven installations (Figure 16). The Lubei division would counter an invasion from Mongolia through the Beijing MR. The division would also be available to reinforce main-force units on the plain or provide flanking support from the west.

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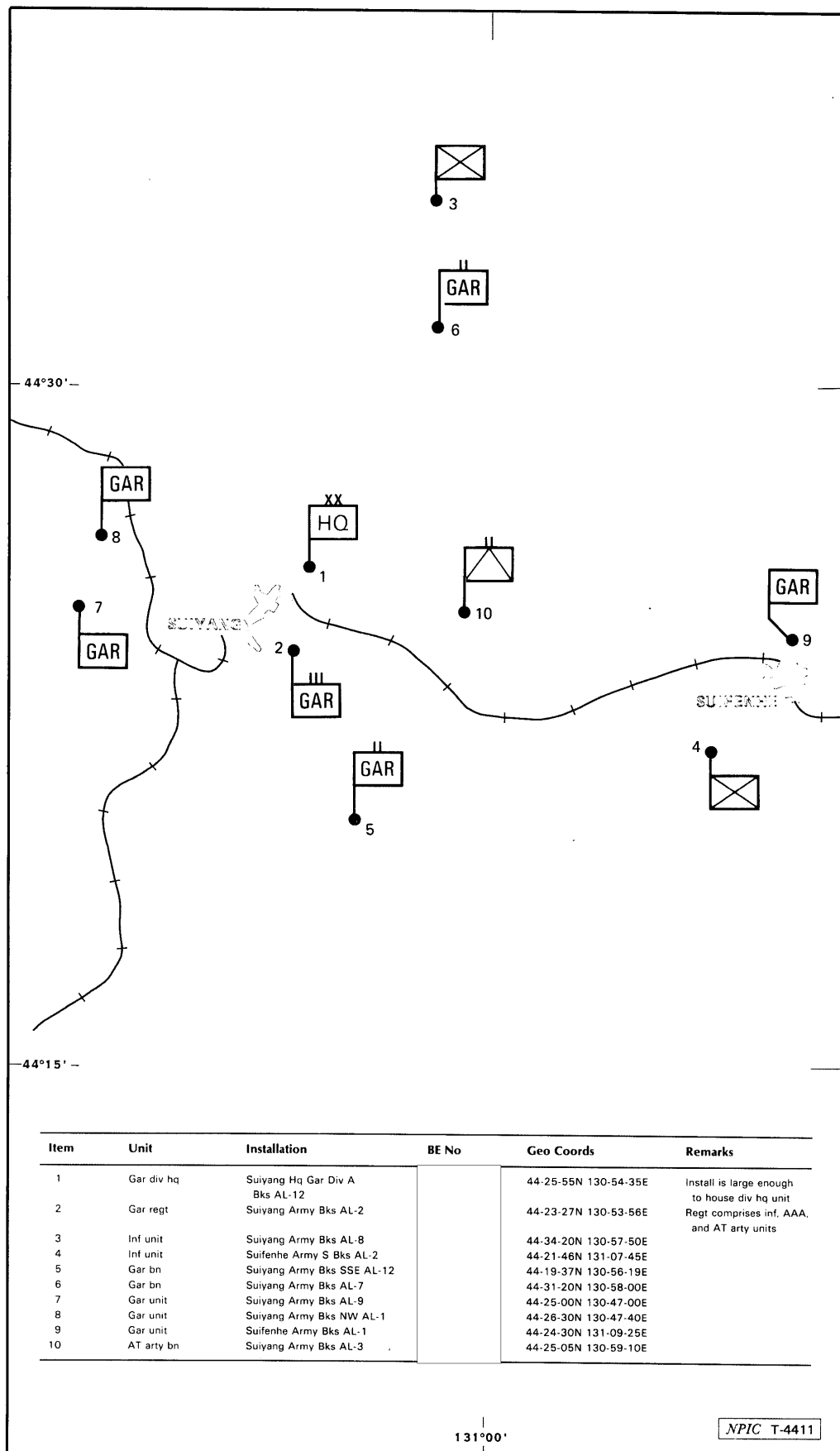


FIGURE 13. INSTALLATIONS IN THE SUIYANG GARRISON DIVISION

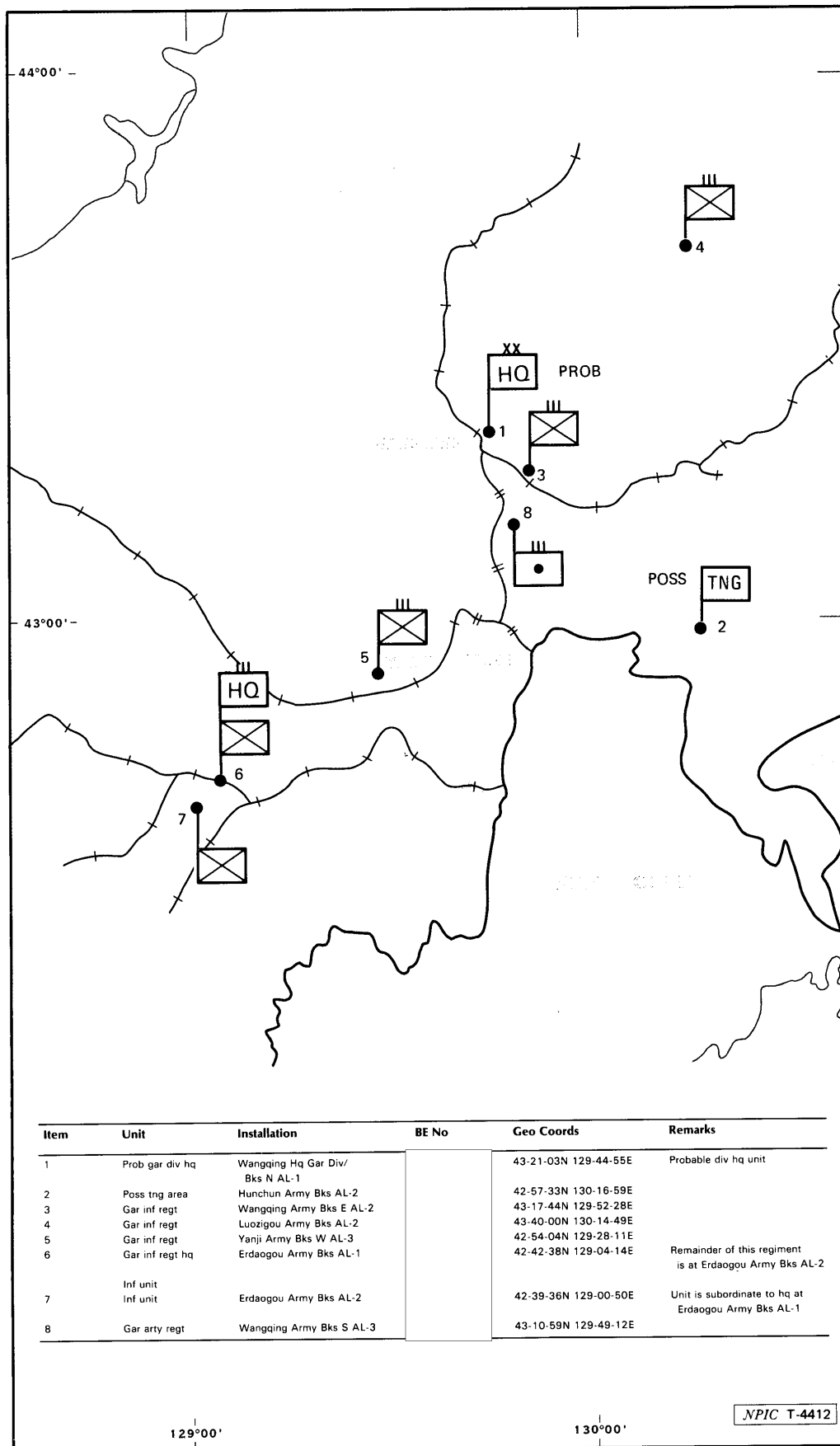


FIGURE 14. INSTALLATIONS IN THE WANGQING GARRISON DIVISION

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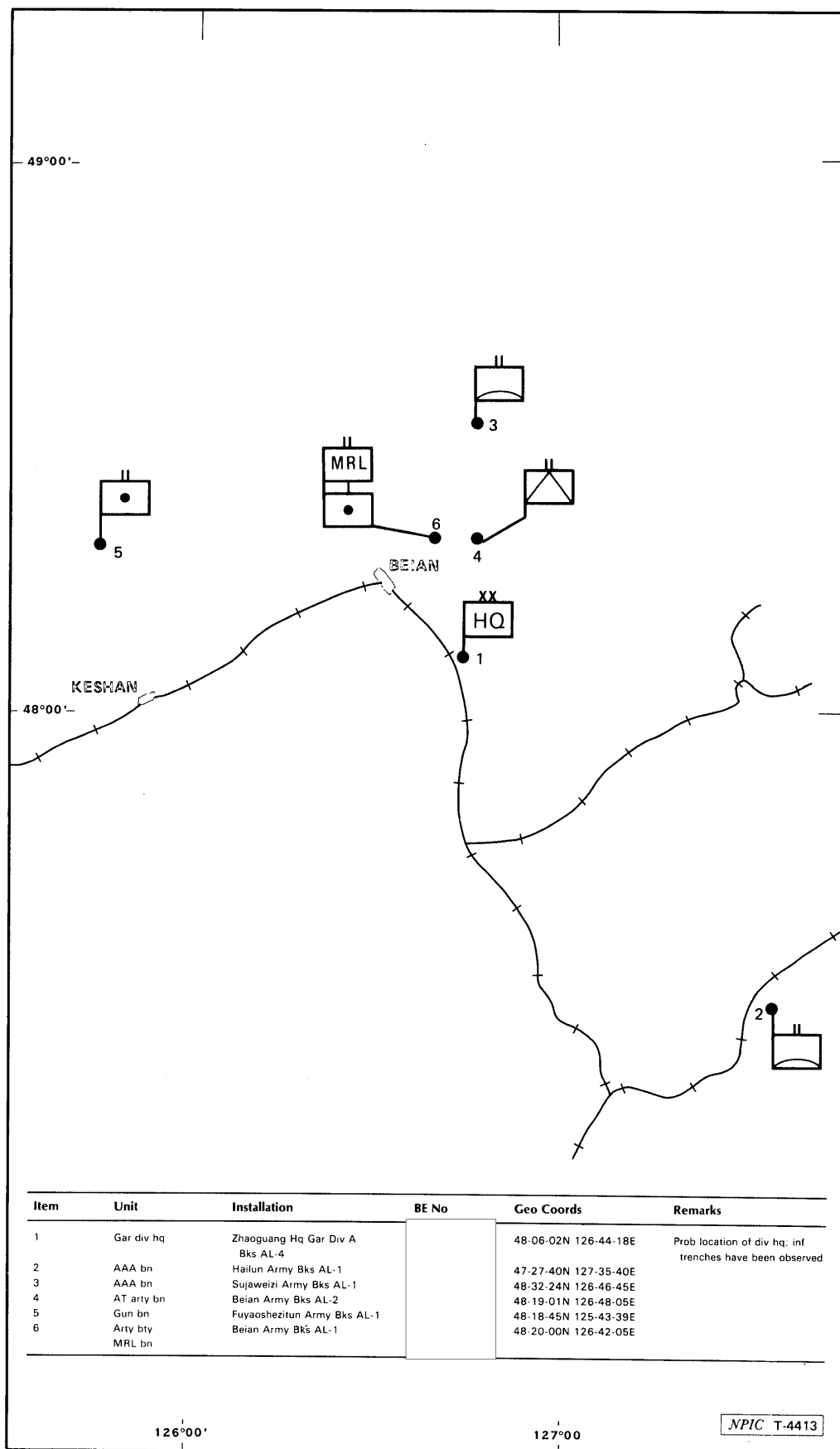


FIGURE 15. INSTALLATIONS IN THE BEIAN GARRISON DIVISION

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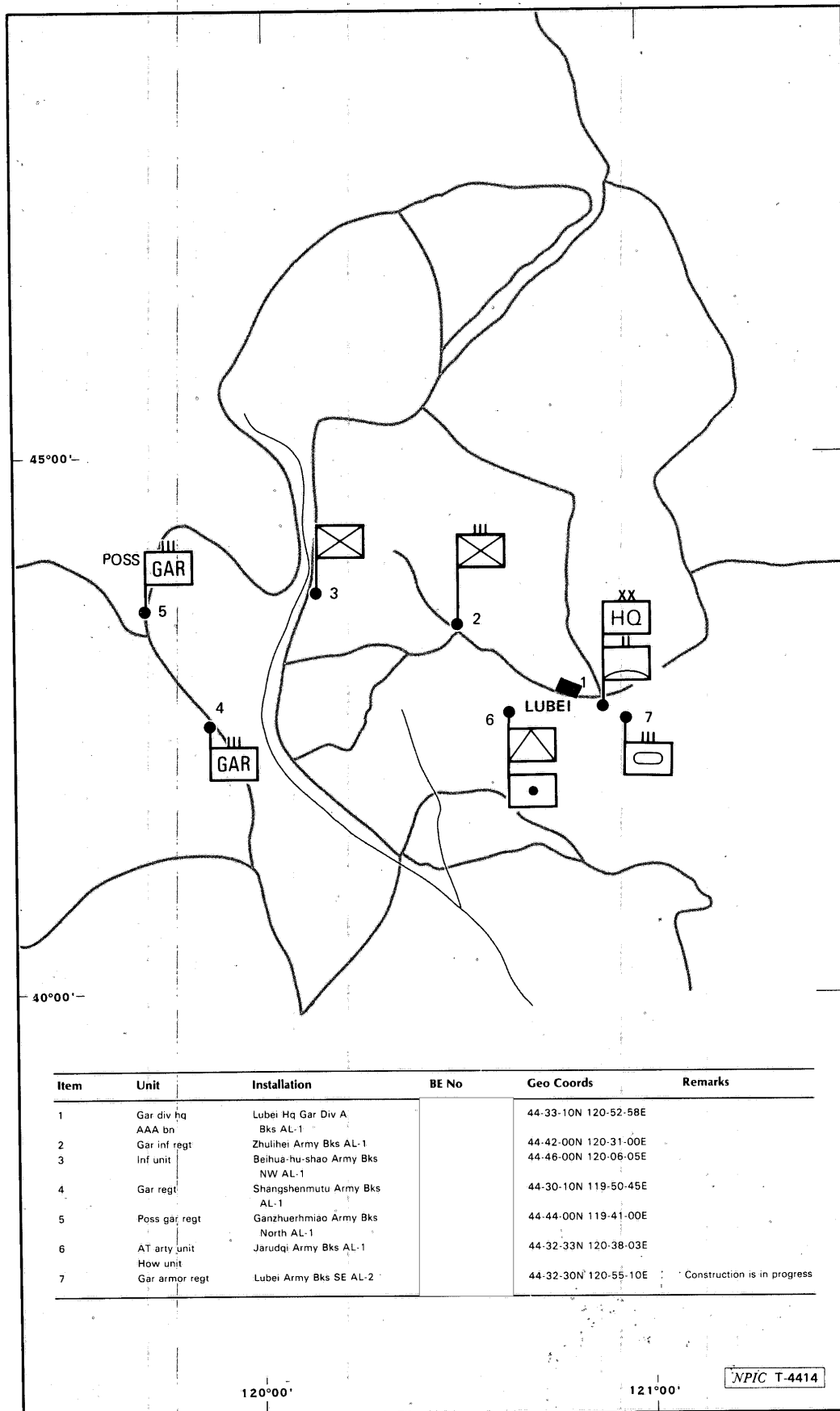


FIGURE 16. INSTALLATIONS IN THE LUBEI GARRISON DIVISION

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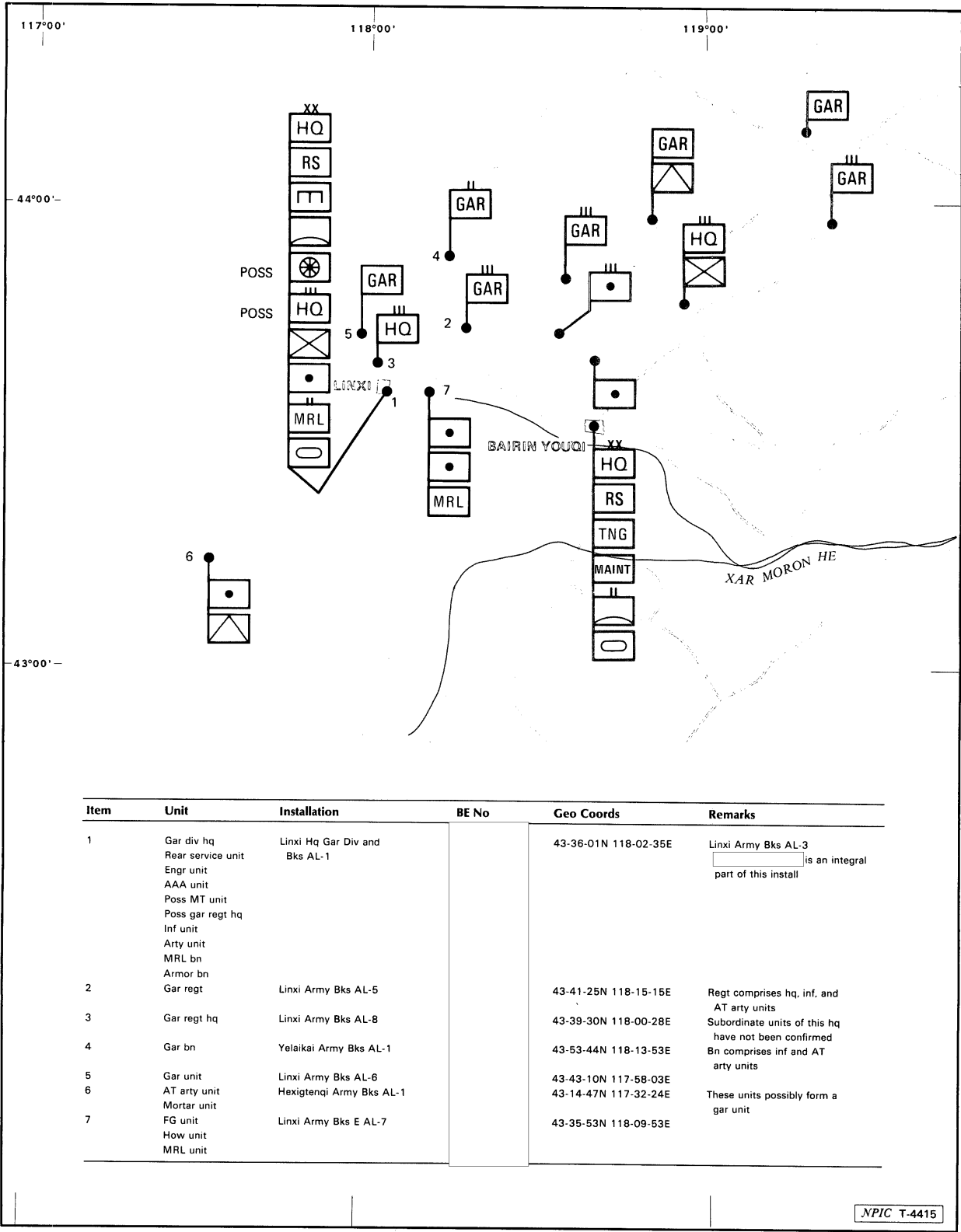


FIGURE 17. INSTALLATIONS PROBABLY SUBORDINATE TO THE LINXI GARRISON DIVISION

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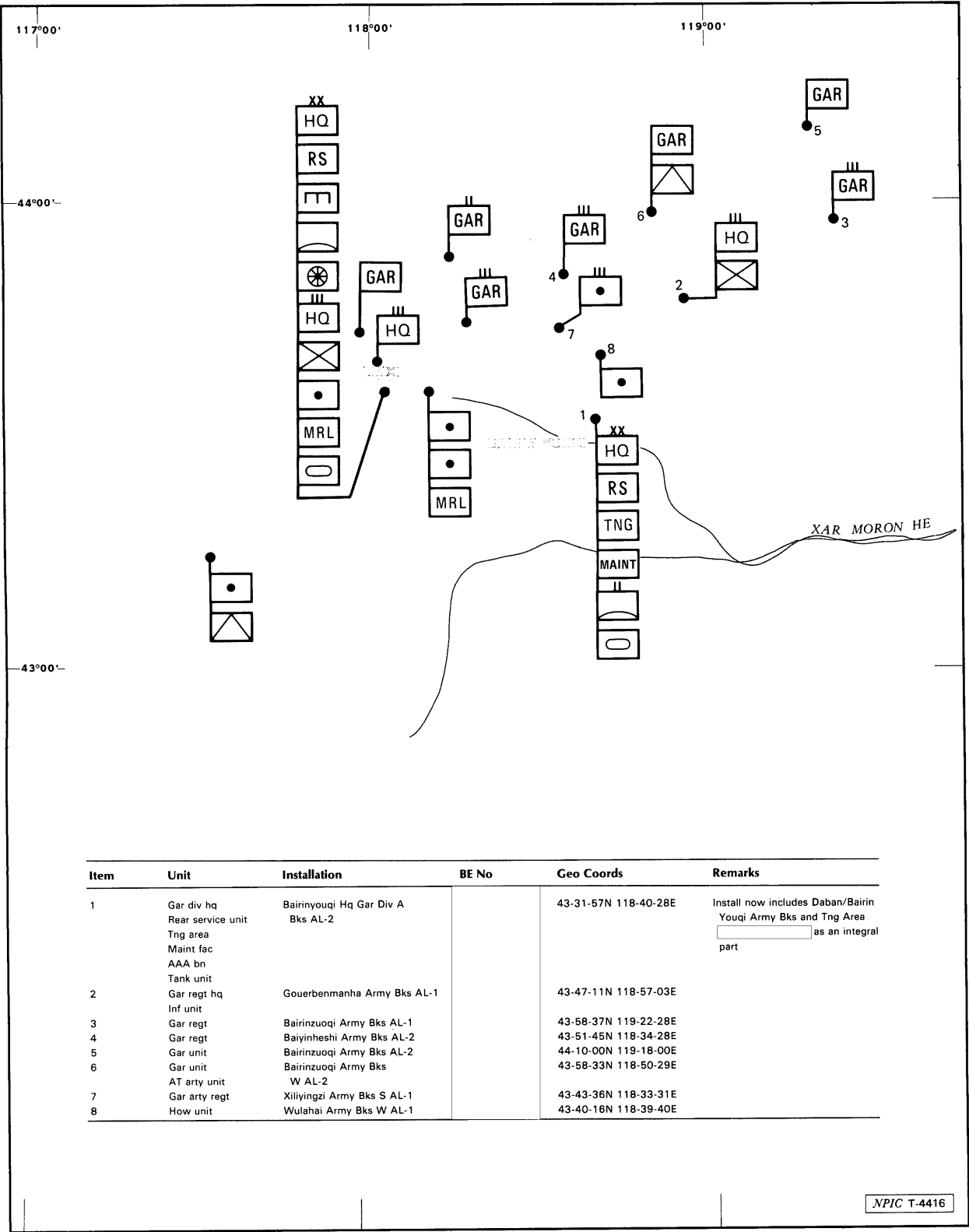


FIGURE 18. INSTALLATIONS PROBABLY SUBORDINATE TO THE BAIRINYOUQI GARRISON DIVISION

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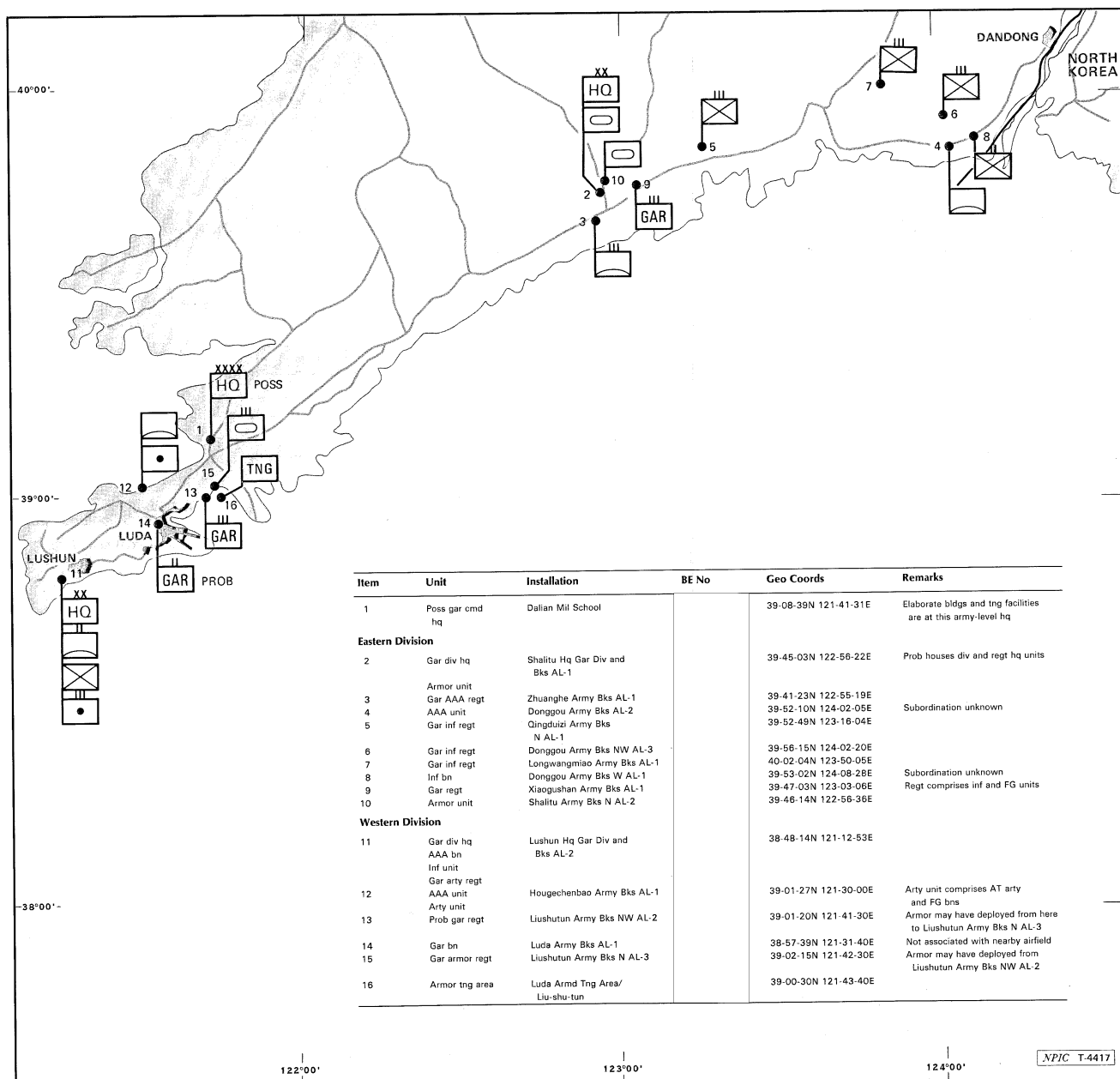


FIGURE 19. INSTALLATIONS IN THE LUDA GARRISON COMMAND

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41. (S/WN) This division has a headquarters, an AAA battalion, a garrison infantry regiment, an infantry unit, two garrison regiments (one possible), two artillery units, and an armor regiment. A full armor regiment was identified in January 1981 in the Lubei Garrison Division. It is housed at Lubei Army Barracks Southeast AL-2, which is still under construction (Figure 5). Although only barracks and messhalls are present, the facilities are sufficient to house all personnel of the regiment. Additional construction material, probably for the administration and support facilities, was present in April 1981.

42. (S/WN) The armored vehicles at Lubei Barracks Southeast AL-2 are probably assault guns, or possibly T-34 tanks. If they are tanks, this would be the first observation of a tank regiment with the local forces.

Linxi Garrison Division

43. [] The Linxi Garrison Division is one of two adjacent garrison divisions in the foothills at the southwestern end of the Manchurian Plain in western Liaoning Province (Figure 1). The other division is the Bairinyouqi Garrison Division. []

[] Because the two divisions are intermingled, a precise subordination of their units cannot be determined. Therefore, the following tentative subordinations have been postulated on the basis of geographic location and order of battle. The Linxi division is probably

housed in seven installations (Figure 17). The division has a headquarters, a rear service unit, an engineering unit, an AAA unit, a possible MT unit, two garrison regimental headquarters (one possible), one infantry unit, one garrison regiment, two garrison units, five artillery units, two MRL units, and an armored battalion.

44. (S/WN) A battalion of tanks and/or assault guns was observed in the Linxi division; however, permanent facilities for this battalion have not been identified. An engineering unit was observed with this division. No bridging or mine-laying vehicles have been observed.

Bairinyouqi Garrison Division

45. (S/WN) The Bairinyouqi Garrison Division is the other point defense division in western Liaoning Province (Figure 1). At least eight installations probably house this division (Figure 18).

46. (S/WN) This division has a headquarters, a rear service unit, maintenance and training facilities, an AAA battalion, a regimental headquarters unit, an infantry unit, two garrison regiments, two garrison units, a garrison artillery regiment, two artillery units, and a tank unit.

47. (S/WN) The headquarters of this division appears to be at Bairinyouqi Headquarters Garrison Division and Barracks AL-2. The type and number of administration buildings and other support facilities at this installation suggest a headquarters function, although no auditorium is pre-

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sent. An anti-aircraft unit of at least battalion strength and rear service and maintenance areas have also been identified, further indicating a headquarters function. This facility is probably being upgraded; construction is underway and equipment holdings have increased. An armored unit, which historically has been small, has expanded slightly and is at least at battalion strength.

Coastal Defense Units

48. (S/WN) Coastal defense units are structured and deployed to defend against an amphibious invasion. The armor, artillery, AAA, and infantry are deployed to meet an assault along the coast from the Luda Peninsula to the Sino/Korean border.

Luda Garrison Command

49. The Luda Garrison Command (Figure 1), an army-level unit on the Liaoning Penin-

sula, comprises a command headquarters and two divisions.¹ It protects not only the peninsula but also the important ports of Luda (Dairen) and Lu-Shun (Port Arthur). Other local forces in this area include numerous coastal batteries in firing positions along the coast and in forward positions on islands off the coast.

50. (S/WN) The headquarters and subordinate units of the Luda Garrison Command are housed in at least 16 installations (Figure 19). The two divisions (Eastern and Western) are probably subordinate to the headquarters at Dalian Military School. This facility has numerous multistory headquarters buildings, multistory barracks, and support facilities. A firing range for small arms and artillery/armor is also present.

51. (S/WN) **Eastern Division.** The Eastern Division is between the cities of Zhuanghe and Donggou on the coastal plain, near the Korean border. This division, housed in at least nine installations (Figure 19), has a headquarters, a

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garrison AAA regiment, an AAA unit, three garrison infantry regiments, an infantry battalion, a garrison regiment, and two armor units.

52. The division headquarters and a subordinate armor unit are probably housed at Shalitu Headquarters Garrison Division and Barracks AL-1. Two headquarters buildings and two auditoriums are at AL-1, indicating that a regimental headquarters may be there, in addition to the division headquarters. Six other installations that house local-force units of this division also have regimental headquarters facilities and are of sufficient size to house a full regiment. Because these installations were originally constructed to house main-force units (Figure 20),

53. (S/WN) **Western Division.** The Western Division—near the tip of the Liaoning Peninsula and south of the command headquarters—is housed in at least six installations (Figure 19).

54. (S/WN) The division has a headquarters, two AAA units, an infantry unit, a probable garrison regiment, a garrison battalion, a garrison artillery regiment, one artillery unit, a garrison armor regiment, and an armor training facility.

55. One of the installations, Liushutun Army Barracks Northwest AL-2 (Figure 21), is of regimental size and has been estimated to have armor and AAA units.⁴ A little-used tracked-vehicle driver training course and a probable miniature firing range are present. However, no maintenance facilities or vehicle storage sheds have been observed. This installation probably houses a garrison regiment. Any armor unit that may have occupied this facility in the past has probably relocated to the newly constructed Liushutun Army Barracks North AL-3 (Figure 22). The AAA reported at AL-2 may have been a subordinate element of the armor regiment; however, the current location of the AAA is not known.

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REFERENCES

MAPS OR CHARTS

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- (S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [REDACTED] Asian Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [REDACTED] 25X1
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